

FY 2006 Task 41 Technical Assistance
Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

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2006 A-NPDC Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program Coastal Management Committee Report

A-NPDC staff arranged and held the following technical assistance activities for 2006/2007:

On October 11, 2007, the Committee heard information regarding the recent meeting on the Eastern Shore of the Virginia Legislature's Joint Subcommittee to Study Long-Term Funding Sources for the Purchase of Development Rights to Preserve Open-Space Land and Farmlands. Follow-up material was also presented showing how these types of programs work in other states.

The Coastal Committee met on November 1, 2006 to provide comments on the draft Virginia Outdoors Plan. The map used for the Eastern Shore was updated and more detailed information was provided to the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

On November 11, 2006, the Heritage Tourism Workshop was held on Chincoteague. Over 400 people attended a Native American festival where dance, storytelling and demonstrations of Native American culture were presented. Information on the original inhabitants of the Eastern Shore was also presented.

On March 20, 2007, Marine Renewable Energy was presented. The information focused on the Virginia Joint Commission on Technology and Science's presentation from December 12, 2006.

Members of the Coastal Committee met on March 27, 2007 to receive training on TMDL development.

On July 25th, the Coastal Committee met to listen to presentations on water quality management in other states. The teleconference focused on one case study in Massachusetts' Cape Cod. Participants were quite interested in explanations of how the communities coped with a large influx of seasonal visitors, and using zoning now only to improve and enhance the economy but also maintain water quality.

On August 13, 2007, Don Alexander and James Davis, Health Department, presented information on the Health Department's new regulations regarding alternative wastewater treatment systems. The biggest change will be the requirement for these systems to be inspected yearly and the ability of the Health Department to now collect civil penalties.

2006 A-NPDC Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program Coastal Management Training Report

A-NPDC staff arranged and held the following technical assistance for 2006/2007:

On November 11, 2006, the Native American Heritage Festival was held at Chincoteague's new downtown park. Over 400 people attended and saw several exhibits. The NOAA & Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program received full credit with the logos on all printed signs and booklets summarizing the various exhibits. Immediately after the event, the A-NPDC received several requests for the date of the new festival. Many festival goers were amazed at learning that one of the reasons that Virginia has no recognized Indian Nations is due to the work of one man who during one census categorized all Native Americans as black or white making it impossible today to prove to federal officials their status.

On March 27, 2007, Coastal Committee members received training regarding TMDL development. DEQ staff came and explained what TMDLs were and how they will affect water quality. Some outcomes has been having DEQ staff come out during a Ground Water Committee meeting to explain TMDLs to local officials.

On July 25, 2007, Coastal Committee members took part in a teleconference on water quality. It focused on case studies in water quality management. While some larger cities were included the Massachusetts case study was of particular interest to the members as it focused on tourism related concerns, economic development and water quality. This also provided training to local government staff. Northampton County staff held a Watershed Management Workshop afterward.

On August 13, 2007, the Coastal & Groundwater Committee hosted a training session at the local Community College where Health Department experts explained new requirements. Members of the public, local businesses, officials, and county staff all attended.

2006 A-NPDC Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program

Planning Technical Assistance Report

A-NPDC staff provided the following Planning Technical Assistance to Eastern Shore local governments during 2006/2007:

Information Requests

Staff responded to 65 data information requests during 2006/2007.

Eastville Zoning Ordinance

Staff reviewed and made comments to the Eastville Zoning Ordinance.

Northampton County Watershed Meeting

Staff took part in Northampton County Watershed Meeting. Much new information from various state agencies was presented.

Eastern Shore Tributary Strategy

Staff served on the Eastern Shore Tributary Strategy Committee.

Wetlands Network

Staff took part in the Wetlands Network Committee and provided pictures for the new website.

VAPDC Coastal Committee

Staff served on the VAPDC Coastal Committee.

Heritage Tourism Program

Staff held the Heritage Tourism Workshop on November 11, 2006.

TMDL Meetings

Staff hosted four TMDL public meetings and also hosted one TMDL IP public meeting for Occohannock Creek.

Northampton County

Northampton County and the Towns of Cape Charles, and Eastville received staff support and grant writing assistance for the Northampton County Regional Water Supply Plan. On May 24, 2007, the Village of Willis Wharf received a presentation showing the new information shown by the USGS Groundwater Model.

2006 A-NPDC Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program Eastern Shore of Virginia Groundwater Committee Report

October 17, 2007

The Committee considered actual groundwater use versus permitted use. Many agricultural users are not using the amount that is permitted.

November, 2007

Since the regularly scheduled meeting conflicted with a holiday it was canceled.

December, 2007

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January 17, 2006

The Committee discussed the amendment of the Joint Resolution governing the Committee. The changes would allow only those persons who were members by respect of their position to select an alternate. Northampton County took action to amend but Accomack did not. The Joint Resolution remains unchanged. The Committee's consultant presented the Annual Progress Report.

February 20, 2007

The Committee awarded the two 2006 Awards to Dixon Leatherbury and William Shockley of Woodland Farms and Richard Davis of Ivy Farm Nursery. The Groundwater Consultant presented information regarding concentrated feeding operations on the Eastern Shore. The Groundwater Consultant demonstrated information regarding the new USGS groundwater model for the Eastern Shore.

March 15, 2007

The Committee approved the Household Hazardous Waste Collection contract and reviewed the Groundwater Permits received for the month.

April 17, 2007

The Committee authorized staff to write a letter of support for Accomack County Public Works application for WQIF funds to improve stormwater management and complete a demonstration project in one of the county's parking lots. The Committee reviewed a legislative letter requesting more action be taken to protect the groundwater. Jennifer Howell, DEQ, presented information about the TMDL process. Jane Corson-Lassiter presented the new booklet, *Living in Your Watershed*, which was partially funded by the Committee.

May 15, 2007

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection resulted in safe disposal and reuse of 1,900 pounds of waste. The USGS forwarded a new proposal to the Committee to characterize the saltwater transition zone. Three ground water withdrawal permit applications were forwarded to the Committee and the consultant presented information on them. Jim Belote, Accomack County Extension Agent, addressed agricultural groundwater use issues.

June 19, 2007

Randy McFarland, USGS, came and presented the saltwater transition zone research to the Committee. The Committee formed a working group with representatives of both the agriculture community and the Committee to discuss and take action on agriculture water use. Paul Berge explained the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program.

July 11, 2007

In lieu of a Groundwater Committee meeting, the Agriculture Advisory Group met. The Group discussed numerous issues and decided to meet again to finalize a priority listing of actions that needed to be taken by the Groundwater Committee.

August 9, 2007

The Agriculture Advisory Group met and decided on three priorities: 1) support EQIP federal cost share program funding of new irrigation ponds and rehabilitation of old irrigation ponds 2) create a Wetlands Mitigation Bank for the Eastern Shore 3) support the EQIP federal cost share program in the new Farm Bill.

August 21, 2007

The Committee heard the report of the Agriculture Advisory Group. The Committee also discussed the new Shellfish Enhancement Zones NOIRA and also the Groundwater Consultant discussed outstanding issues regarding improvements to the USGS ground water model.

September 18, 2007

The Committee requested the Groundwater Consultant determine a list of projects that might be eligible for the Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program. The Consultant also reported on the new Water Reclamation and Reuse Regulations. The Committee made a motion to support the new regulations and directed staff to write a support letter.

2006 A-NPDC Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Program Accomack Coastal Buffer Land Classification Atlas

A-NPDC staff completed classification of land use on the Seaside of Accomack County. Both shoreline buffers and blueline stream buffers were classified for land use and vegetation type. The data and atlas was provided to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and a Virginia Coastal GEMS mapping initiative fact sheet was developed.